

Dedication . . . to the I L G W U pioneers

This book—ILGWU NEWS-HISTORY—unique in concept, structure and source material, we dedicate to the pioneers, to the men and women who rose from a docile mass of underprivileged labor some 50 years ago to found our International Union, and even to the more distant memory of an earlier generation of garment workers, who for more than two decades before this century dawned, tried desperately, pathetically to form an enduring union—with but meagre results.

In this book you will find the history of our union told in a novel, fascinating way, by using newspaper stories and magazine chronicles of days long-gone-by as exciting contemporary news. Our editors dipped deep into archives, old newspaper files and photographic collections to fill the pages of this unusual book with dramatic accounts of important and revealing events that shaped the course of ILGWU history.

Reading this book is like re-living the entire span of a half-century of sacrifice, conflict and advance. It reveals the step-by-step progress we have made, against the backdrop of our industry and of all America. Within this framework of our union's story, you, delegates to this "Golden Jubilee" of our International Union, may find your rightful place as the inheritors of the invincible spirit of the early builders.

And may the reading of this inspiring record left by the valiant trail-blazers of our history, who fought to establish our union as a constructive force in the life of our nation, infuse us with the determination to continue to make ILGWU history in our industry, our nation and in the world.

David Dubinsky
President, ILGWU